

International Relations Committee

Meeting held November 23, 2022

A meeting of the International Relations Committee is held this day commencing at 3:30 o'clock p.m. via Zoom video conference, there being present the following members:

Councillor Fabio Costante, Acting Chair
Councillor Gary Kaschak
Councillor Ed Sleiman
Jerry Barycki
Ronnie Haidar
William Ma
L.T. Zhao

Regrets received from:

Councillor Fred Francis
Daniel Ableser
Maria Belenkova

Also present are the following resource personnel:

Sandra Gebauer, Council Assistant
Karen Kadour, Committee Coordinator

1. Call to Order

As Councillor Francis is absent, Councillor Costante agrees to preside as Acting Chair.

The Acting Chair calls the meeting to order at 3:39 o'clock p.m. and the Committee considers the Agenda being Schedule A attached hereto, matters which are dealt with as follows.

2. Declaration of Conflict

J. Barycki discloses an interest on Item 6(d) as he is the President of the Polish-Canadian Business and Professional Association of Windsor.

3. Minutes

Moved by Councillor Kaschak, seconded by L.T. Zhao,
That the minutes of the International Relations Committee of its meeting held June 23, 2022 **BE ADOPTED** as presented.
Carried.

4. Business Items

4.1 Initiative to provide support to Local Businesses in our Sister Cities

Moved by Councillor Sleiman, seconded by W. Ma,
That the letter written by Councillor Francis on behalf of the International Relations Committee and the Windsor-Essex Regional Chamber of Commerce, attached as “Appendix A”, to be sent to all of our twin cities, regarding an initiative that would provide support to local businesses in our sister cities looking to expand their markets **BE APPROVED**.
Carried.

4.2 Shonan Fujisawa, Japan Citizens Marathon Event -

S. Gebauer remarks that in the past, Fujisawa requested that the City of Windsor invite runners to attend the marathon event including meals and accommodations. The city reached out to the Human Kinetics Departments at the University of Windsor, and St. Clair College at that time and no interest was expressed. She advises if the IRC provides direction, she will once again send this information to the university and college. She adds that Fujisawa is requesting that the City of Windsor provide some prizes and adds that in the past, two gifts (from the Mayor’s Office) were sent.

R. Haidar will provide contact information for the Dean of the Human Kinetics Department at the University of Windsor, who could share the information with students.

Moved by J. Barycki, seconded by Councillor Kaschak,
That **APPROVAL BE GIVEN** to an expenditure in the upset amount of \$250. for costs associated with the mailing of the prizes to Shonan Fujisawa, Japan for the Marathon Event to be held on January 22, 2023 and further, that the Council Assistant **BE REQUESTED** to reach out to the Human Kinetic Departments at the University of Windsor and St. Clair College to determine if there is interest in this event.
Carried.

4.3 City of Fujisawa, Japan – 35th Anniversary Message Videos

S. Gebauer reports that the Mayor's Office recorded a video yesterday, that includes some of the footage from the Opening of the Children's Art Exhibit. The video will be sent to Fujisawa, Japan for December 2, 2022 which is the 35th Anniversary of our twinning.

Moved by Councillor Sleiman, seconded by J. Barycki,

That the update provided by the Council Assistant regarding the message videos to be sent to the City of Fujisawa, Japan on December 2, 2022 in celebration of the 35th Anniversary of the twinning with the City of Windsor **BE RECEIVED**.

Carried.

4.4 City of Fujisawa, Japan – Invitation to invite a delegation from Windsor Between January to February 2023

The Acting Chair asks if this matter should be deferred and discussed at a meeting of the newly appointed members of the International Relations Committee

S. Gebauer concurs that this matter should be deferred to the new committee and suggests that the request from Fujisawa be forwarded to the Mayor's Office for consideration.

Moved by Councillor Kaschak, seconded by J. Barycki,

That the request from the City of Fujisawa, Japan to invite a delegation from the City of Windsor to visit Fujisawa between January to February 2023, **BE DEFERRED** to the Mayor's Office for consideration.

Carried.

4.5 International Mother Language Plaza (Martyr's Monument)

S. Gebauer reports that in doing some research into past practices relating to the provision of funding for non-sister cities requests, only one precedent (the purchase of tickets to the South Asian dinner) was found. In reaching out to surrounding cities regarding if they have sister cities and what the practice is, most do not have an international or twin city committee. The City of Hamilton's mandate is similar to the City of Windsor and their practice is to promote their own twin cities.

S. Gebauer recalls at the June 23, 2022 meeting of the IRC, Dr Fazle Baki was present and requested a contribution towards the International Mother Language Plaza.

In response to a question asked by Councillor Sleiman regarding the contribution requested by Dr. Fazle Baki from the IRC, S. Gebauer responds that they are currently fundraising to raise \$130,000 for the project.

J. Barycki suggests deferral of this matter to the new term of the IRC Committee.

The Acting Chair advises that the IRC has to be mindful of how certain groups are supported, i.e. if one group is supported, it sets a precedent to support other groups. He suggests that this may be a topic to deliberate for the next committee.

Moved by Councillor Kaschak, seconded by Councillor Sleiman,
That the International Mother Language Plaza (Martyr's Monument) request for funding **BE DEFERRED** to the next meeting of the newly appointed International Relations Committee.

Carried.

5. Communications

S. Gebauer refers to Item 5.14 – “E-mail from Changchun regarding an initiative to establish twin schools of Changchun”, and advises Changchun is endeavoring to establish a relationship between schools. She adds that in many of these countries, the schools are run by the municipal governments and asks if a member of the IRC has connections to any of the schools. She suggests communicating with the school boards to determine if a pen pal type of communication could be considered with our twin city.

The Acting Chair suggests that perhaps a meeting with the City and School Boards Liaison Committee or alternatively that the IRC provide direction for Administration to send a letter to the four local school boards.

S. Gebauer responds that she will send out a letter on behalf of IRC to the school boards. The Acting Chair offers to assist with the Catholic School Board.

Moved by Councillor Kaschak, seconded by L.T. Zhao,
That the following communications **BE RECEIVED**:

- 5.1 Letter from the Mayor of Lublin, Poland to the Premier of Ontario dated September 9, 2022 regarding a proposal to establish relations between the Lubelskie Voivodship (Region) and the Province of Ontario.
- 5.2 Invitation to the 25th Annual Polish-Canadian Society Business Dinner to be held on November 18, 2022 at Caboto Hall, 2175 Parent Avenue.
- 5.3 Letter from Mayor Drew Dilkens to Krzysztof Zuk, Mayor of Lublin inviting

a delegation of two people from Lublin, Poland to visit the City of Windsor from November 17, 2022 to November 20, 2022. Letter from Krzysztof Zuk to Mayor Dilkens noting that Krzysztof Stanowski will attend and will represent Krzysztof Zuk.

- 5.4** Photos of “Productive Meetings in Lublin” dated August 16, 2022.
- 5.5** E-mail from the Foreign Affairs Office, Changchun, China regarding the 30th Anniversary of twinning with Changchun and the City of Windsor.
- 5.6** Letter of thanks from the City of Mannheim, Germany regarding the closing of the International Summer Camp with Mannheim’s Twin Cities in preparation for the National Garden Show BUGA 23.
- 5.7** Letter from Mannheim, Germany thanking Mayor Dilkens for the support of their film project celebrating their 20th anniversary.
- 5.8** E-mail from Hiromi Okumura, Fujisawa, Japan regarding the cancellation of Fujisawa’s official delegation to the City of Windsor in October 2022 due to COVID-19.
- 5.9** E-mail from Gunsan, Korea sending regrets regarding their visit to the City of Windsor on September 19, 2022 due to several urgent city issues.
- 5.10** Letter from Krzysztof Zuk, Mayor of Lublin congratulating Mayor Dilkens on his election as Mayor for a third term.
- 5.11** Letter from Tsuneo Suzuki, Mayor of the City of Fujisawa congratulating Mayor Dilkens on his election as Mayor for a third term.
- 5.12** E-mail from Hiromi Okumura, City of Fujisawa regarding an invitation for runners to attend the Marathon along with a request for prizes from the City of Windsor.
- 5.13** E-mail from Mannheim, Germany and letter to Mayor Drew Dilkens congratulating the Mayor on his re-election.
- 5.14** E-mail from Changchun, China regarding an initiative to establish twin schools of Changchun.
- 5.15** E-mail from the Mayor of Gunsan, South Korea sending congratulatory Letters to Mayor Drew Dilkens and Councillor Fred Francis.

6. Confirm & Ratify E-mail Polls

- (a) That the following motion sent via E-mail Poll on June 27, 2022 **BE CONFIRMED AND RATIFIED:**

Moved by Councillor Sleiman, seconded by W. Ma,
That a letter of invitation from Mayor Drew Dilkens be sent to President Zuk, Mayor of the City of Lublin, Poland for a delegation of two (2) to visit the City of Windsor from November 17, 2022 to November 20, 2022 for three nights.

Carried.

- (b) That the following motion sent via E-mail Poll on July 20, 2022 **BE CONFIRMED AND RATIFIED:**

Moved by Councillor Kaschak, seconded by Councillor Sleiman,
That approval be given to an expenditure in the upset amount of \$100 for costs associated with a small reception to be held for the Misono Jogakuin School students from Fujisawa, Japan to be held on Tuesday, July 26, 2022 from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Windsor City Hall.

Carried.

- (c) That the following motion sent via E-mail Poll on August 26, 2022 **BE CONFIRMED AND RATIFIED:**

Moved by W. Ma, seconded by Councillor Kaschak,
That a request by the City of Gunsan, South Korea, for a visit to the City of Windsor from September 19, 2022 to September 20, 2022 by a delegation of seven (7), including Mayor Im-June Kang be approved and that approval be given to an expenditure in the upset amount of \$7,000 for costs related to this visit.

Carried.

- (d) J. Barycki discloses an interest and abstains from voting on Item 6(d). There is no longer a sufficient number of members to constitute a quorum.

Moved by Councillor Sleiman, seconded by R. Haidar,
That the following motions sent via E-mail Poll on October 18, 2022 regarding “that approval be given to an expenditure in the upset amount of \$4,000 for costs associated with the delegation from Lublin, Poland to visit the City of Windsor from November 17, 2022 to November 20, 2022” and “that approval be given to an expenditure in the upset amount of \$400 for the purchase of four (4) tickets (1 ticket for Mayor Dilkens) for the 25th Annual Polish-Canadian Business Society Dinner to be held on November 18, 2022 at the Caboto Hall, 2175 Parent Avenue. **BE DEFERRED** to the next meeting of the International Relations Committee

Carried.

5. Date of the Next Meeting

The next meeting date and time to be determined.

6. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting is adjourned at 4:08 o'clock p.m.

CHAIR

COMMITTEE COORDINATOR